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State Dept. Disowns CIA Neutrality Paper

Washington, Aug. 24 (UPI)—

The State Department today disavowed a Central Intelligence Agency paper which expressed "serious doubt" that the Communists could be licked in Viet Nam and declared the United States might have to settle for a "negotiated settlement based upon neutralization."

Press officer Robert J. McCloskey said the CIA analysis, prepared by Willard Matthias of the agency's board of estimates, "is not, nor does it purport to be a statement of policy." Other officials said it had not been read or discussed by any top officials in the State or Defense Departments.

McCloskey said the President had assured Congress he was ready "to explore any avenues of political solution" if they would "effectively guarantee removal of Communist subversion"—guarantees which were not mentioned in the CIA paper.